

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN A HANDHELD DEVICE AND  
ANOTHER COMPUTER SYSTEM USING AN EXCHANGE MANAGER  
AND UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL) STRINGS

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and electronic system for exchanging data between a handheld device and another computer system using universal resource locator (URL) strings.

With respect to sending information from the handheld, an application may define a

10 URL string that may indicate 1) a transport mechanism and 2) a destination for the information. Exemplary transport mechanism strings include: IRODEX:// (infrared); BTOBEX:// (radio frequency Bluetooth); SMS://; SMTP:// (email); SYNC:// (synchronization); HTTP:// (Internet); FTP:// (file transport protocol); etc. Information and the associated URL string is forwarded from the application to an exchange  
15 manager API. The exchange manager API is connected to a plurality of exchange library APIs, one for each supported transport mechanism. If no transport mechanism is defined, the user is asked to define one. If no destination is specified, the user is asked to define one. The exchange manager then provides the required communication using the specified URL string. On receiving information, the URL can  
20 define its source. If none is given, the exchange manager requests from the user a specific application and verifies the addition of the information to the database associated with the application. When URL strings are fully defined, the communication of information can be somewhat transparent to the user. The handheld device can be a palmtop computer system.